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Governor

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Acting State Forester

# Arizona State Forestry Division

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Dear Cooperator:

This fire season again demonstrated the vulnerability of the Wildland/Urban Interface to wildfire in Arizona with the State requesting and receiving 1 declared FEMA request for Fire Management Assistance grant. The National Fire Plan created a funding process which provided grant monies to help reduce the vulnerability of Wildland/Urban Interface areas and help fire departments prepare for fire protection in these areas. Congress continued to provide high funding levels for many fire management activities, including the Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) Grant Program through the U. S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture and the Rural Fire Assistance (RFA) Grant Program through the U. S. Department of Interior. Several hundred thousand dollars may be available in VFA and RFA Grants to qualified applicants in Arizona this year. Distribution of these grant monies will be on a competitive basis, through the Arizona Interagency Coordination Group. The Arizona Interagency Coordination Group consists of individuals from Federal Agencies, the Arizona State Forestry Division and other Fire Service Professionals engaged in fire management.

**Availability of Funds:** The availability of Rural Fire Assistance Grant and Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant monies from the Department of the Interior and Agriculture is uncertain at this time. Awarding of these Grants is conditioned upon the availability of funds being appropriated.

The grant programs focus on four primary fire management activities: training, equipping, (organizing rural fire departments, and fire prevention – **VFA fire prevention activity**). These categories are further described on the Arizona State Forestry Division's Website ([www.azsf.az.gov](http://www.azsf.az.gov)). Fire departments and other qualified applicants that meet the criteria identified on the web site are invited to submit project proposals thru the district forester's representing their county.

The grant applications for these grants are available at the Arizona State Forestry Division's website located at ([www.azsf.az.gov](http://www.azsf.az.gov)). They are in Microsoft Word document and can be downloaded for off-line viewing and form completion. After completion you can email your application to the district forester for your county listed on page 5. If you do not have internet access please contact your district forester to receive hard copies of these documents.

The Questionnaire and Project Proposal must be received by the Arizona State Forestry Division no later than **January 12, 2009**. The Project Proposal will be evaluated by the Arizona Interagency Coordination Group on **January 28, 2009**.

The Committee will notify all applicants of their success. Remember, there are two specific grant programs available for you to consider. **Both require the grant recipient to match the grant with either funds or in-kind services or both. This year the Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant will require a 50/50 cost-share and Rural Fire Assistance Grant will require 90/10 cost-share.** You may have your Project Proposal considered under either or both grant programs. Please indicate your preference on the Questionnaire, question #3. If you have any questions, please contact the district forester representing your county.

Sincerely,

***/s/David Behrens***

David Behrens, Fire Management Officer

Attachment A - Information on Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant – State Forester's Office

Attachment B - Information on Rural Fire Assistance Grant - U.S. Department of the Interior

Attachment C - Grant Questionnaire - for use by Evaluation Committee

Attachment D - Proposed Project Form